

MARSHALL:REPUBLICAN.

VOL. X.

MARSHALL, SALINE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 27, 1901.

NO. 34.

OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, for Southwest Missouri, in Session—Eloquent Sermon by Rev. J. S. Jenkins, of Springfield.

On Tuesday evening a large congregation was present to hear the annual sermon to the undergraduates by the Rev. J. S. Jenkins of Springfield. The church was artistically decorated about the organ, chancel and chandeliers with greenery and golden rods, the decorations being in charge of the Epworth League.

The order of the services was as follows: Organ prelude, by Rev. Frank Briggs, of Kansas City; hymn, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross;" prayer, Rev. J. M. Boone, of Kansas City; scripture reading, Jeremiah 1, 4-19. Rev. J. S. Jenkins; hymn, "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken;" quartette, Messrs. C. W. Lacy, W. F. Nelson, A. B. Hoy and W. S. Koontz.

Then followed the address to the undergraduates, the Rev. Mr. Jenkins taking for his text Jeremiah 1:7: "But the Lord said unto me, say not, I am a child; for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." Mr. Jenkins is an earnest, forceful speaker, and was listened to by a very attentive and appreciative audience. He said that every preacher should be a specialist and his specialty should be to preach against sin in every form until crowned with glory in the eternal skies. The preacher who specializes will preach himself out of an appointment, for his people will get mortal tired of him. He must preach a gospel constructive and destructive. He must instruct in righteousness and rebuke sin. It is not all failure. There are sorrows, disappointments and apparently fruitless efforts, but sometimes our hardest appointments prove to have been the best. The prophet of God is a real hero, and he who, in the beginning, does not mean to be bold and true under all circumstances, had better not start. He is a man of purpose, and the purpose from which he never swerves is to rescue men.

The thirty-first session of the Southwest Missouri Conference of the M. E. church, South, convened in the Methodist church Wednesday, September 25, 1901, at 8:30 a. m., Bishop W. A. Candler presiding.

Devotional services were led by the bishop. Hymn 221 was sung, followed by an earnest prayer by the bishop, and a scripture lesson read, beginning with the last verse of the 12th chapter of First Corinthians and continuing through Paul's beautiful analysis of charity.

In a brief exposition of the passage, the

bishop said a common failing was to deify the means to a great good, forgetting the end. When we are called to preach, the preaching is not the end, but a means to an end. I have known preachers to become so in love with their own sermons that they get mad if conference doesn't give them a better place just when they think they deserve it.

The religion expressed in the word love is the religion for the world. The word love is much abused and our language is poor in words expressing real love. The reason for this scarcity of words is the scarcity for the thing itself. Tears do not set love to floating. The love Paul speaks of is a supernatural love revealing to us the love of Christ, the greatest known to the world.

Charity vanqueth not itself. Egotism is a sort of epilepsy—not so bad as apoplexy—but who wants epilepsy? Preachers want better places, but we can't tell them of their unfitness, so they go on heaping up hopes, knowing not who shall gather them. Good order is good religion. With the decay of religion in America, we have taken on a rough, slangy sort of manners.

Bad manners show the whole religious system out of fix. The doctor needs to see only two inches of tongue to judge the condition of physical health.

Resentment and factions are out of order in God's church. Frequently a man thinks he has gotten rid of his evil by changing its name. I'd rather be deceived four thousand times a day than to believe a wrong thing of a good man once. I am easily imposed on. Don't take advantage of this. Charity hopeth all things. Don't be despondent. Jesus Christ was the most hopeful man ever in this world because he was the most loving. Publicans and sinners came to Him under the breath of that hopefulness. Who said any man is beyond hope? One man may come to be more than a whole multitude. What do you or I know about an opportunity? This love has come to abide. Our sermons here will cut no figure in our piety in the skies. You won't cut much figure, brethren, but though you get lost in this world, you won't get lost to God. We may not be known outside of our little town, but in the book of His kingdom, with the pages so fair, there our names shall be written.

C. C. Woods was elected Secretary and Revs. J. M. Boone, C. C. Berry, E. K. Wolfe and C. L. Stouffer were appointed assistants. The roll call showed 114 ministers present.

Reports from General Board of Education, General Sunday School Board, Agents Pub-

lishing House, Sec'y. Church Extension and Central College, were received and referred to the committees in charge. The hours of meeting and adjournment of Conference were fixed for 8:30 and 12.

Reports of the various districts were made by the following Elders: Kansas City, C. H. Briggs; Lexington, R. S. Hunter; Boonville, W. T. McClure; Nevada, T. M. Cobb; Neosho, S. J. Brown; Springfield, J. M. Clark.

The roll of superannuated preachers was called, their characters was passed and relations continued.

The class of the second year, seven in number, were reported as having passed their examinations and were elected deacons. Dr. Geo. W. Walker, who has charge of the Payne Institute Augusta, Ga., for the instruction of negro preachers and teachers was present and made a most interesting talk on the work and needs of the school. This school is under the supervision of the Southern Methodist church, and is doing a great work in the education and training of the negro. The class of the first year was called, characters passed and reports given.

The following committees were announced: ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

W. T. McClure, J. W. Howell, R. B. Taylor.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS.

A. B. Appleby, T. P. Cobb, J. L. Hagler, W. L. McGuire, W. A. McClanahan, W. C. Hill, W. B. Beasley.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

A. R. Farris, J. H. Goodwin, E. K. Wolfe, E. E. Axline, J. E. McDonald, W. R. Eckle, J. W. Patison, Sam'l Orr, J. E. Alexander, J. K. Dickinson, C. N. Scrivener, J. F. Garner, J. T. Swanson, G. M. Jones.

ADMISSIONS.

F. M. Burton, W. M. Rader, B. V. Alton, J. R. Strong, J. L. Sullins, W. B. Cobb, I. W. Longacre.

EPWORTH LEAGUES.

A. H. Barnes, R. L. Pyle, E. O. Vivian, A. B. Davidson, A. N. James, J. W. Coontz, R. J. Kyle.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE RECORDS.

S. P. Cayton, T. W. Cassell, C. B. Rhoades, M. M. Hawkins, J. C. Diggs, T. B. Harris, Perry Long.

TEMPERANCE.

J. R. Hedges, Felix Hill, T. M. Bradbury, J. H. Sullins, L. L. Johnson, W. C. Bewley, J. F. Pike.

THE BIBLE CAUSE.

M. B. Chapman, Chas. Kraus, V. M. Crutsinger, S. R. Godwin, Laban Anderson, J. G. Haynes, L. P. Norfleet.

EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

Admission on Trial—J. S. Jenkins, to fill vacancy of C. M. Bishop.

First Year—A. H. Godbey, to fill vacancy of E. P. Ryland.